

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 were pending in the application. Claims 1-12 are cancelled and replaced with new claims 13-26 drawn to a fitting device for a removable tool holder. Support for new claims 13-17 and 26 may be found in FIG. 3B and the description thereof; page 4, lines 11-14 of the specification; and in the claims as originally filed. Support for claims 18-25 may be found, for example, in the claims as originally filed. No new matter is added.

Objections to the Abstract

The abstract is objected to for containing more than one paragraph. The abstract is amended to consist of a single paragraph and to correct typographical errors. No new matter is added.

Objections to the Claims

Claims 10 and 11 are objected to over insufficient antecedent basis in the claims. Claims 10 and 11 are cancelled and the new claims are written to provide proper antecedent basis.

Claims Rejections 35 U.S.C. 112

Claims 1-12 are rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph over the terms "in particular" and "such as" in claims 1, 8 and 9. The rejected claims are cancelled and new claims 13-26 are written without the use of the terms "in particular" and "such as."

Claims Rejections 35 U.S.C. 102

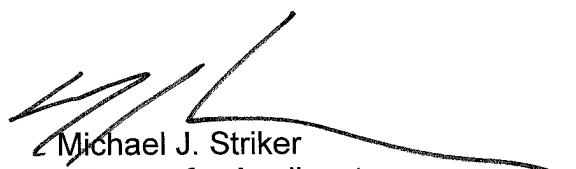
Claims 1-6 and 8-12 are rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by GB 233980 A. The Examiner's rejection has been carefully considered. In response to the Examiner's rejection, claims 1-12 are cancelled and replaced with new claims 13-26. Applicant believes that the new claims are not anticipated by GB 233980 A because the cited reference does not disclose a fitting device comprising a protective sleeve around the tool holder (17) that forms a releasable sliding fit (18) with a drive tube (16) and at least one locking element (24) securing the tool holder (17) to the fitting device so that, for removing the machine tool holder (17) from the fitting device, the protective sleeve (12) of the tool holder (17) is removed, then the at least one locking element (24) is completely removed, and then the tool holder (17) is separated from the fitting device.

Claims 1-4 and 7-12 are rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Baumann et al. (US 6,536,780). The Examiner's rejection has been carefully considered. In response to the Examiner's rejection, claims 1-12 are cancelled and replaced with new claims 13-26. Applicant believes that the new claims are not anticipated by Baumann because the cited reference does not disclose a fitting device comprising a protective sleeve around the tool holder (17) that forms a releasable sliding fit (18) with a drive tube (16) and at least one locking element (24) securing the tool holder (17) to the fitting device so that, for removing the machine tool holder (17) from the fitting device, the protective sleeve (12) of the tool holder (17) is removed, then the at least one locking element (24) is completely removed, and then the tool holder (17) is separated from the fitting device.

Conclusion

The application in its amended state is believed to be in condition for allowance. Action to this end is courteously solicited. Should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, the undersigned would very much welcome a telephone call in order to discuss appropriate claim language that will place the application into condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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